

# CONNECTICUT PACKAGE STORES ASSOCIATION



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Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro and members of the General Law Committee. The Connecticut Package Stores Association urges that the Committee take a close look at the risk of the precedent that HB 5231 will set. We therefore urge caution when deciding on the fate of H.B. No. 5231 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF WINE AT FARMERS' MARKETS.

This bill appears to allow an exemption for farm wineries enabling them to sell their products away from their permit premises. All other beverage alcohol retailers including package stores are required to make their sales at one permitted location and cannot utilize their permit to travel to additional towns.

Additionally, in light of the recent Supreme Court Granholm decision, any situation that is allowed for in-state entities must also be allowed for an out-of-state entity. Allowing an in-state winery to sell at various locations around the state might also open an opportunity for an out-of-state winery to establish retail locations throughout Connecticut without regard for an established permit premises. We also urge that a local permit be sought from local law enforcement before such permits are authorized by the Department of Consumer Protection.

We understand the importance that the farm wineries provide to Connecticut residents. However, we want to ensure that there are no loopholes to cause concerns in the retail tier of the industry.